

City Council

Study Session Summary

February 24, 2015
Library Meeting Room, 951 Spruce Street
7:00 PM

The City Council met in a study session at 7:00 p.m. in the 1st Floor Meeting Room at the Louisville Public Library at 951 Spruce Street, Louisville, Colorado. The following persons were present:

City Council Present: Mayor Bob Muckle
Mayor Pro Tem Hank Dalton
Council member Jay Keany
Council member Chris Leh
Council member Jeff Lipton
Council member Susan Loo
Council member Ashley Stolzmann

Staff Present: Malcolm Fleming, City Manager
Heather Balser, Deputy City Manager
Aaron DeJong, Economic Development Director
Kurt Kowar, Public Works Director
Troy Russ, Planning and Building Safety Director
Ken Swanson, Chief Building Official
David Szabados, Facilities Maintenance Manager
Dawn Burgess, Executive Assistant to the City Manager

Others Present: Members of Sustainability Advisory Board:
Mary Ann Heaney, David Hsu, Claudia Lenz, Mark Persichetti, Justine Vigil - Tapia

Members of Public

Call to Order – The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM by Mayor Pro Tem Dalton

Update/Discussion – Sustainability Advisory Board Annual Update

Members of the Louisville Sustainability Advisory Board (LSAB) met with Council to discuss the past year accomplishments and plans for future LSAB events and

City of Louisville

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projects. Mary Ann Heaney gave an update on the Community Garden project. There are significant issues to work through. Members of Boy Scout Troop 69 were present and the Troop is ready to help with construction plans and building of a tool shed. Claudia Lenz is handling the 501c3 requirements. LSAB has been working with the Planning Department and LSAB found they need a Profession Engineer for a floodplain analysis. They would like a Community Garden on the former Baptist Church property. Joe Stevens suggested land at Garfield and Griffith. LSAB members mentioned that the church property has water and other municipalities have gardens in established parks.

The Special Review Use was asked for by Council. LSAB is taking the lead with staff assisting. LSAB made the decision to turn this over to the 501c3. These are not simple processes. Perhaps a different piece of property – ie; one not in a floodplain would be more feasible. Many properties were ruled out for issues such as lack of parking and accessibility. LSAB is interested in both the Cottonwood Park and Garfield at Griffith locations.

Justine Vigil-Tapia presented the annual report which was part of the packet. Highlights included:

- Sustainability roadmap – primary tasks and emphasis
- Zero waste volunteers at Street Faire provided outreach. Good collaboration with DBA.
- Energy Study Completed – baseline and follow-up.

What worked well:

- Visited Boards and community groups
 - Shared information about roadmap
 - Sought areas to collaborate and common goals
- Community garden is moving forward
- Supported pay as you throw fee structure for residential contract – provided community engagement

What did not work well?

- Little progress on Zero waste
- Board member turnover
- Loss of Council Liaison for portion of the year
- Collaboration restrictions
- Slow process
- Support for work (city, community), no longer the leader.

List Plans/Goals for Next Year:

- Complete the road map
- Complete the Community Garden
- Update sustainability web pages – opportunity to refresh content
- Sustainability charrettes
- Recognition of sustainable businesses

LSAB would like feedback from Council:

- Should mandatory recycling be extended to categories not currently covered? (HOAs, multi family, commercial)
- Community garden property selection
- What sustainability programs or initiatives does the City want to drive and /or own?

Would like support for:

- Community garden startup costs
- Solar gardens

David Hsu discussed Matching grants for sustainable initiatives. Application closes March 6th. LSAB would like \$15K: \$4000 to community garden, \$11000 to LSAB facilitator to manage LSAB initiatives. Grant application due now. How can they lock in match from City? Council member Stolzmann would like CMO to apply for grant for solar gardens.

LSAB answered questions related to costs of Community Garden.

Mayor supports Community Gardens and would like to see gardens on both properties.

LSAB encourages Council to consider:

- Noise Ordinance – quiet zones
- Trash hauler licensing and reporting requirements for City

Questions for City Council

- For what categories of sustainability does Council want LSAB to propose goals similar to the surrounding communities?
- What are the Council's sustainability priorities?
- Feedback on sustainability roadmap after public comment

Some members of Council thought the road map looked ambitious. Suggested it would help if there were priorities.

Update/Discussion – Building Fees and Permit Review Process

Planning and Building Safety Director Troy Russ along with Chief Building Official Ken Swanson and Building Code Board of Adjustment (BCBOA) members Bob Van Pelt, Matt Berry, Peter Geise discussed with Council the City's construction review process.

Permit timelines were discussed. Director Russ said issues seem to revolve around projects that are smaller such as fence, deck, etc. Staff has implemented an over the counter permitting review for smaller projects. Swanson feels this has helped tremendously and been very positive. Inspections were delayed with staff turnover (retirement). Additional counter staff has helped. The Building department is very excited about building software coming on line.

When the City adopted the most recent IBC, some impacts to small contractors, homeowners and staff were not considered and we are now seeing the effects of that being part of the city code. Director Russ said the next IBC update can be redlined to adopt portions of the code while not adopting items Council does not support. Building Safety will provide Council with the domino effect of regulations/adoption of IBC on next update.

Building staff wants people to pull permits for safety. Plan reviews are conducted as in the past. However the inspection process has changed a lot. Staff does 46% more inspections. Staff didn't use to inspect exterior sheeting, roof inspections, mid-roof inspections or final inspections. These inspections provide value for homeowners and provide for a safe, code compliant house.

City of Louisville review process is no longer than other neighboring municipalities.

Most effective customer service enhancement has been over the counter review. The face to face customer service has been very helpful for smaller projects.

It was suggested that perhaps the Building Department could hold classes for homeowners. For example, a class could be held on requirements for finishing basements. A public relations campaign was also suggested to incentivize people to pull permits. Building Safety is open to all such ideas. The Department needs to create a perception of value to the community.

BCBOA thinks over the counter is very helpful, eliminates surprises and gets the homeowner involved early in their project.

Comments:

None

City Manager's Report:

City Manager Fleming reviewed the Advanced Agenda. The water committee will meet quarterly. The Utility Rate increase will be on the March 3rd agenda.

Future Discussion items:

Biannual budget

Legal committee direction

Aquatics facility

RTD update on the BRT Service Plan and Fare Study

Pre meeting for Superior meeting

No grant from History Colorado for Grain Elevator – may need a meeting for local matching funds from Historic Preservation Commission.

Adjourn – 9:47 pm

Submitted by – Dawn Burgess

February 25, 2015